

Exhibit A

Funding Commitment Decisions Letter for 471 # 441106



Universal Service Administrative Company
Schools & Libraries Division

FUNDING COMMITMENT DECISION LETTER
(Funding Year 2005: 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2006)

August 3, 2005

WALTER A TAYLOR
SC DIVISION OF THE CIO
4430 BROAD RIVER ROAD
COLUMBIA, SC 29210

Re: Form 471 Application Number: 441106
Funding Year 2005: 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2006
Billed Entity Number: 145704
Billed Entity FCC RN:
Applicant's Form Identifier: CI0471-YR8

Thank you for your Funding Year 2005 E-rate application and for any assistance you provided throughout our review. Here is the current status of the funding request(s) featured in the Funding Commitment Report at the end of this letter.

- The amount, \$16,207,910.93 is "Denied."

Please refer to the Funding Commitment Report on the page following this letter for specific funding request decisions and explanations.

The Important Reminders and Deadlines immediately preceding this letter are provided to assist you throughout the application process.

NEXT STEPS

- Work with your service provider to determine if you will receive discounted bills or if you will request reimbursement from USAC after paying your bills in full
- Review technology planning approval requirements
- Review CIPA Requirements
- File Form 486
- Invoice the SLD using the Form 474 (service provider) or Form 472 (Billed Entity) - as products and services are being delivered and billed

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT

On the pages following this letter, we have provided a Funding Commitment Report for the Form 471 application cited above. The enclosed report includes a list of the Funding Request Number(s) (FRNs) from your application. The SLD is also sending this information to your service provider(s) so preparations can be made to begin implementing your E-rate discount(s) after you file your Form 486. Immediately preceding the Funding Commitment Report, you will find a guide that provides a definition for each line of the Report.

TO APPEAL THIS DECISION:

If you wish to appeal a decision in this letter, your appeal must be received by the SLD or postmarked within 60 days of the date of this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. In your letter of appeal

1. Include the name, address, telephone number, fax number, and (if available) e-mail address for the person who can most readily discuss this appeal with us.
2. State outright that your letter is an appeal. Include the following to identify the letter and the decision you are appealing:
 - Appellant name,
 - Applicant name and service provider name, if different from appellant,

IMPORTANT REMINDERS & DEADLINES

Billed Entity Number : 145704
Name of Billed Entity: SC DIVISION OF THE CIO

The following information is provided to assist you throughout the application process. We recommend that you keep it in an easily accessible location and that you share it with the appropriate members of your organization.

FCC REGISTRATION NUMBERS (FCC RNs) - Effective November 1, 2004, the FCC's Fifth Order (FCC 04-190 released August 13, 2004) requires E-rate program participants to have FCC Registration Numbers. Please continue to review our web site for additional guidance.

FORM 486 DEADLINE - The Form 486 must be postmarked no later than 120 days after the Service Start Date you report on the Form 486 or no later than 120 days after the date of the Funding Commitment Decision Letter, whichever is later. If you are required to have a Technology Plan, that plan must cover all 12 months of the funding year. You must indicate the name of the SLD-Certified Technology Plan Approver (TPA) prior to the commencement of discounted services for this funding year. You must indicate the name of the SLD-Certified TPA who approved your plan in your Form 486, and you must retain your approval letter and documentation of your monitoring of the progress toward your stated goals.

CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA) - Please review the CIPA guidance in the Form 486 Instructions, Section II, "IMPACT OF CIPA REQUIREMENTS ON FORM 486."

INVOICE DEADLINE - Invoices must be postmarked no later than 120 days after the last date to receive service - including extensions - or 120 days after the date of the Form 486 Notification Letter, whichever is later. Invoices should not be submitted until the invoiced products and services are being delivered and billed, and (for BEAR Forms) the provider has been paid.

OBLIGATION TO PAY NON-DISCOUNT PORTION - Applicants are required to pay the non-discount portion of the cost of the products and/or services. Service providers are required to bill applicants for the non-discount portion. The FCC has stated that requiring applicants to pay their share ensures efficiency and accountability in the program. FCC 04-190 concluded that a presumptively reasonable timeframe for a beneficiary to pay its non-discount share is 90 days after the completion of services. If you are using a trade-in as part of your non-discount portion, please refer to the web site for more information.

DOCUMENTATION RETENTION - FCC rules require that documents demonstrating compliance with the statute and Commission rules must be retained for a period of at least five years after the last day of service delivered. See "Document Retention Requirements" in FCC 04-190 for a descriptive list of many of the documents you must retain.

SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT - Persons who have been convicted of criminal violations or held civilly liable for certain acts arising from their participation in the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism are subject to suspension and debarment from the program.

FREE SERVICES ADVISORY - Applicants and service providers are prohibited from using the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism to subsidize the procurement of ineligible or unrequested products and services, or from participating in arrangements that have the effect of providing a discount level to applicants greater than that to which applicants are entitled.

Complete program information - including more information on these reminders - is posted to the SLD section of the USAC web site at www.sl.universalservice.org. You may also contact the SLD Client Service Bureau by e-mail using the "Submit a Question" link on the web site, by fax at 1-888-276-8736 or by phone at 1-888-203-8100.

- Applicant BEN and service provider SPIN,
- Form 471 Application Number as assigned by the SLD,
- "Funding Commitment Decision Letter for Funding Year 2005," AND
- The exact text or the decision that you are appealing.

3. Please keep your letter to the point, and provide documentation to support your appeal. Be sure to keep a copy of your entire appeal, including any correspondence and documentation.
4. If you are the applicant, please provide a copy of your appeal to the service provider(s) affected by the SLD's decision. If you are the service provider, please provide a copy of your appeal to the applicant(s) affected by the SLD's decision.
5. Provide an authorized signature on your letter of appeal.

To submit your appeal to the SLD by e-mail, use the "Submit a Question" feature on our web site at www.sl.universalservice.org. Click "Continue," choose "Appeals" from the Topics Inquiry on the lower portion of your screen, and click "Go" to begin your appeal submission. The system will prompt you through the process. The SLD will automatically reply to incoming e-mails to confirm receipt.

To submit your appeal to the SLD by fax, fax your appeal to (973) 599-6542.

To submit your appeal to the SLD on paper, send your appeal to:

Letter of Appeal
 Schools and Libraries Division
 Box 125 - Correspondence Unit
 80 South Jefferson Road
 Whippany, NJ 07981

While we encourage you to resolve your appeal with the SLD first, you have the option of filing an appeal directly with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). You should refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC. Your appeal must be received by the FCC or postmarked within 60 days of the above date on this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. We strongly recommend that you use either the electronic filing options described in the "Appeals Procedure" posted in the Reference Area of our web site. If you are submitting your appeal via United States Postal Service, send to: FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

NOTICE ON RULES AND FUNDS AVAILABILITY

Applicants' receipt of funding commitments is contingent on their compliance with all statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements of the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism. Applicants who have received funding commitments continue to be subject to audits and other reviews that the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and/or the FCC may undertake periodically to assure that funds that have been committed are being used in accordance with all such requirements. The SLD may be required to reduce or cancel funding commitments that were not issued in accordance with such requirements, whether due to action or inaction, including but not limited to that by the SLD, the applicant, or the service provider. The SLD, and other appropriate authorities (including but not limited to USAC and the FCC), may pursue enforcement actions and other means of recourse to collect improperly disbursed funds. The timing of payment of invoices may also be affected by the availability of funds based on the amount of funds collected from contributing telecommunications companies.

Schools and Libraries Division
 Universal Service Administrative Company

A GUIDE TO THE FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT

A report for each E-rate funding request from your application is attached to this letter. We are providing the following definitions for the items in that report.

FORM 471 APPLICATION NUMBER: The unique identifier assigned to a Form 471 application by the SLD.

FUNDING REQUEST NUMBER (FRN): A Funding Request Number is assigned by the SLD to each Block 5 of your Form 471. This number is used to report to applicants and service providers the status of individual funding requests submitted on a Form 471.

FUNDING STATUS: Each FRN will have one of the following definitions:

1. An FRN that is "Funded" is approved at the level that the SLD determined is appropriate for this FRN. The funding level will generally be the level requested unless the SLD determines during the application review process that some adjustment is appropriate.
2. An FRN that is "Not Funded" is one for which no funds were committed. The reason for the decision will be briefly explained in the "Funding Commitment Decision Explanation." An FRN may be "Not Funded" because the request does not comply with program rules, or because the total amount of funding available for this Funding Year was insufficient to fund all requests.
3. An FRN that is "As Yet Unfunded" reflects a temporary status that is assigned to an FRN when the SLD is uncertain at the time the letter is generated whether there will be sufficient funds to make commitments for requests for Internal Connections at a particular discount level. For example, if your application included requests for discounts on both Telecommunications Services and Internal Connections, you might receive a letter with funding commitments for your Telecommunications Services funding requests and a message that your Internal Connect requests are "As Yet Unfunded." You would receive one or more subsequent letters regarding the funding decision on your Internal Connections requests.

CATEGORY OF SERVICE: The type of service ordered from the service provider, as shown on your Form 471.

FORM 470 APPLICATION NUMBER: The Form 470 Application Number associated with this FRN from Block 5, Item 12 of the Form 471.

SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number): A unique number assigned by the Universal Service Administrative Company to service providers seeking payment from the Universal Service Fund for participating in the universal service support mechanisms. A SPIN is also used to verify delivery of services and to arrange for payment.

SERVICE PROVIDER NAME: The legal name of the service provider.

CONTRACT NUMBER: The number of the contract between the eligible party and the service provider. This will be present only if a contract number was provided on your Form 471.

BILLING ACCOUNT NUMBER: The account number that your service provider has established with you for billing purposes. This will be present only if a Billing Account Number was provided on your Form 471.

SERVICE START DATE: The Service Start Date for this FRN from Block 5, Item 19 of your Form 471.

CONTRACT EXPIRATION DATE: The Contract Expiration Date for this FRN from Block 5, Item 20b of your Form 471. This will be present only if a contract expiration date was provided on your Form 471.

SITE IDENTIFIER: The Entity Number listed in Form 471, Block 5, Item 22a. This will be present only for "site specific" FRNs.

NUMBER OF MONTHS RECURRING SERVICE PROVIDED IN FUNDING YEAR: The number of months of service that has been approved in the funding year. This will be present only for recurring services.

ANNUAL PRE-DISCOUNT AMOUNT FOR ELIGIBLE RECURRING CHARGES: Eligible monthly pre-discount amount approved for recurring charges multiplied by number of months of recurring service approved for the funding year.

ANNUAL PRE-DISCOUNT AMOUNT FOR ELIGIBLE NON-RECURRING CHARGES: Annual eligible non-recurring charges approved for the funding year.

PRE-DISCOUNT AMOUNT: Amount in Form 471, Block 5, Item 23I, as determined through the application review process.

DISCOUNT PERCENTAGE APPROVED BY THE SLD: The discount rate that the SLD has approved for this service.

FUNDING COMMITMENT DECISION: This represents the total amount of funding that the SLD has reserved to reimburse your service provider for the approved discounts for this service for this funding year. It is important that you and your service provider both recognize that the SLD should be invoiced and the SLD may direct disbursement of discounts only for eligible, approved services actually rendered.

FUNDING COMMITMENT DECISION EXPLANATION: This entry provides an explanation of the amount in the "Funding Commitment Decision."

FCDL DATE: The date of this Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL).

WAVE NUMBER: The wave number assigned to FCDLs issued on this date.

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT
Billed Entity Name: SC DIVISION OF THE CIO
BEN: 145704
Funding Year: 2005

Form 471 Application Number: 441106
Funding Request Number: 1264978
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 338790000
SPIN: 143004824
Service Provider Name: Bell South Telecommunications, Inc.
Contract Number: 2000.16
Billing Account Number: N/A
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 05/31/2008
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$5,686,651.80
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$5,686,651.80
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

Funding Request Number: 1265034
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 117490000
SPIN: 143004824
Service Provider Name: Bell South Telecommunications, Inc.
Contract Number: C.04.K12
Billing Account Number: 803 M03-4967 BST ETHERNET
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2009
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$5,033,754.00
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$5,033,754.00
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT
Billed Entity Name: SC DIVISION OF THE CIO
BEN: 145704
Funding Year: 2005

Form 471 Application Number: 441106
Funding Request Number: 1265113
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 797790000
SPIN: 143004824
Service Provider Name: Bell South Telecommunications, Inc.
Contract Number: S5-S6743
Billing Account Number: 803 M03-4967 BST ETHERNET
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2010
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$2,546,940.00
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$2,546,940.00
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

Funding Request Number: 1266308
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 338790000
SPIN: 143001237
Service Provider Name: South Carolina Net, Inc
Contract Number: 2000.16
Billing Account Number: N/A
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 05/31/2008
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$2,345,546.40
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$2,345,546.40
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT
Billed Entity Name: SC DIVISION OF THE CIO
BEN: 145704
Funding Year: 2005

Form 471 Application Number: 441106
Funding Request Number: 1266344
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 117490000
SPIN: 143001237
Service Provider Name: South Carolina Net, Inc
Contract Number: CIO.04.12K
Billing Account Number: GOVSC258 ETHERNET01/18/20
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2009
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$609,259.20
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$609,259.20
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

Funding Request Number: 1266357
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 797790000
SPIN: 143001237
Service Provider Name: South Carolina Net, Inc
Contract Number: S5-S6743
Billing Account Number: GOVSC258 SPIRIT ETHERNET
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2010
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$1,073,516.40
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$1,073,516.40
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT
Billed Entity Name: SC DIVISION OF THE CIO
BEN: 145704
Funding Year: 2005

Form 471 Application Number: 441106
Funding Request Number: 1266507
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 175430000
SPIN: 143025738
Service Provider Name: Trillion Digital Communications, Inc.
Contract Number: CIO.04.12K
Billing Account Number: TO BE ANNOUNCED
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2009
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$1,714,680.00
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$1,714,680.00
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

Funding Request Number: 1266527
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 439880000
SPIN: 143025738
Service Provider Name: Trillion Digital Communications, Inc.
Contract Number: S5-S6745
Billing Account Number: TBA
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2010
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$734,962.80
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$734,962.80
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT
Billed Entity Name: SC DIVISION OF THE CIO
BEN: 145704
Funding Year: 2005

Form 471 Application Number: 441106
Funding Request Number: 1266628
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 439880000
SPIN: 143025700
Service Provider Name: Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC
Contract Number: S5-S6745
Billing Account Number: TBA
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2010
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$194,515.20
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$151,250.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$345,765.20
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

Funding Request Number: 1266683
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 797790000
SPIN: 143027651
Service Provider Name: Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC
Contract Number: S5-S6745
Billing Account Number: TBA
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2010
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$192,882.00
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$192,882.00
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT
Billed Entity Name: SC DIVISION OF THE CIO
BEN: 145704
Funding Year: 2005

Form 471 Application Number: 441106
Funding Request Number: 1266724
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Telecommunications Service
Form 470 Application Number: 797790000
SPIN: 143028430
Service Provider Name: Time Warner Cable Information Services (South Caro
Contract Number: S5-S6743
Billing Account Number: TBA
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2010
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$740,740.80
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$740,740.80
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide
evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership
of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

Funding Request Number: 1266901
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Internet Access
Form 470 Application Number: 210720000
SPIN: 143005815
Service Provider Name: Info Avenue Internet Services, LLC
Contract Number: 04-S6529
Billing Account Number: TBA
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/29/2009
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$153,000.00
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$153,000.00
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide
evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership
of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.

FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT
Billed Entity Name: SC DIVISION OF THE CIO
BEN: 145704
Funding Year: 2005

Form 471 Application Number: 441106
Funding Request Number: 1266958
Funding Status: Not Funded
Category of Service: Internet Access
Form 470 Application Number: 203870000
SPIN: 143004824
Service Provider Name: Bell South Telecommunications, Inc.
Contract Number: 04-S6529
Billing Account Number: TBA
Service Start Date: 07/01/2005
Contract Expiration Date: 06/29/2009
Number of Months Recurring Service Provided in Funding Year: 12
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$148,500.00
Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00
Pre-discount Amount: \$148,500.00
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader has failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, a substantial number of the members included in this consortium.
FCDL Date: 08/03/2005
Wave Number: 006

Exhibit B

Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2005-2006

Form 471 # 441106



Universal Service Administrative Company
Schools & Libraries Division

Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2005-2006

December 28, 2005

Kyle Herron
South Carolina Division of the Chief Information Officer
4430 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

Re: Applicant Name: SC DIVISION OF THE CIO
Billed Entity Number: 145704
Form 471 Application Number: 441106
Funding Request Number(s): 1264978, 1265034, 1265113, 1266308, 1266344,
1266357, 1266507, 1266527, 1266628, 1266683,
1266724, 1266901, 1266958
Your Correspondence Dated: September 02, 2005

After thorough review and investigation of all relevant facts, the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has made its decision in regard to your appeal of SLD's Funding Year 2005 Funding Commitment Decision Letter for the Application Number indicated above. This letter explains the basis of SLD's decision. The date of this letter begins the 60-day time period for appealing this decision to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). If your Letter of Appeal included more than one Application Number, please note that you will receive a separate letter for each application.

Funding Request Number(s): 1264978, 1265034, 1265113, 1266308, 1266344,
1266357, 1266507, 1266527, 1266628, 1266683,
1266724, 1266901, 1266958

Decision on Appeal: **Denied**
Explanation:

- On appeal, you seek reversal of the SLD's decision to deny this application because of failing to provide evidence of authorization to file the Form 471. In support of your appeal, you include documents that you believe exempts the consortium from the LOA requirements. Additionally, you assert that SLD should have contacted you with a more specific request before denying the FRNs.

- Upon thorough review of the appeal, relevant facts and documentation, we find that on April 26, 2005, SLD requested Mr. Walter A. Taylor, the authorized

contact, to provide all documentation or Letters of Agency (LOAs) for all entities in Block 4 of all Form 471 applications that he filed. The request stated that the documentation or LOAs must describe that the entities are a member of the Consortium and authorized participation in the filing of this application on their behalf. The request also stated that the document had to include information such as the dated signature. A review of the LOAs that Ms. Emily Walker provided on Mr. Taylor's behalf indicated that only 83 LOAs included the dated signature. However, the signature dates on 77 of the LOAs provided are after February 10, 2005, the date this Form 471 was certified. Program rules require that Letters of Agency must be certified before the filing of the Form 471. Program rules also do not permit the SLD to accept new information on appeal except where an applicant was not given the opportunity to provide information during the initial review or an error was made by the SLD. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all Forms are submitted to SLD in a correct manner. You have failed to provide evidence that SLD has erred in its decision.

- During the Program Integrity Assurance review of your Form 471 application you were asked to provide evidence of your authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, all the members included in the consortium. SLD denied your application because you failed to provide proof of your authorization to represent all entities for which services were sought and/or proof of their membership in the consortium. In your appeal, you did not show that the SLD's determination was incorrect. Consequently, your appeal is denied.
- You failed to provide evidence of your authority to file FCC Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of, the membership of all the members included in this consortium. FCC rules require that the Form 471 shall be signed by the person authorized to order telecommunications and other supported services for the eligible schools or libraries or the consortium. The Form 471 shall include that person's various certifications under oath, submitted on behalf of eligible entities applying for discounts. 47 C.F.R. § 54.504 (c)(1). During the course of the application review, the SLD may seek documentation to confirm the consortium leader's authorization to represent all entities in the application, proof of each entity's membership in the consortium and their knowledge of filing of the applicable Form (s) 471 on their behalf. See Instructions for Completing the Schools and Libraries Universal Service, Services Ordered and Certification Form (FCC Form 471), OMB 3060-0806 (October 2002) at Item 33.

If your appeal has been approved, but funding has been reduced or denied, you may appeal these decisions to either the SLD or the FCC. For appeals that have been denied in full, partially approved, dismissed, or canceled, you may file an appeal with the FCC. You should refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC. Your appeal must be received or postmarked within 60 days of the date on this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. If you are submitting your appeal via United States Postal Service, send to: FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Further information and options for filing an appeal directly with the FCC can be found in the "Appeals Procedure" posted in the Reference Area of the SLD web site or by contacting the Client Service Bureau. We strongly recommend that you use the electronic filing options.

We thank you for your continued support, patience and cooperation during the appeal process.

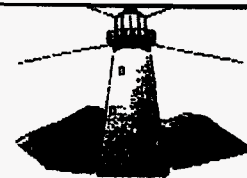
Schools and Libraries Division
Universal Service Administrative Company

Exhibit C

Sample of CIO Letter of Agency for Funding Year 2004

ABBEVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
400 GREENVILLE STREET
ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29820
PHONE (864) 459-5427 FAX (864) 459-8531



Letter of Agency

This is to confirm our participation in the K-12 Technology Committee's Consortium for E-rate. The K-12 Technology Committee has established that the Division of the CIO will procure Internet connectivity and access on behalf of the public schools and libraries in South Carolina. As an authorized representative of the Abbeville County School District, I authorize the Division of the CIO office to provide the circuits and Internet access to our school system. I understand this service is funded by the K-12 Technology Committee through a Legislative Proviso. I further understand the Division of the CIO office requests E-rate funds on behalf of the circuits provided to our school system and provides those funds to the K12 Technology Committee.

By signing this Letter of Agency, I make the following certifications:

1. I certify that all schools in my entity are under the statutory definitions of elementary and secondary schools found in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1956, do not operate as "for profit" businesses, and do not have endowments exceeding \$50 million.
2. I certify that my entity and all schools within my entity have secured access to all of the resources, including computers, training, software, maintenance and electrical connections necessary to make effective use of the services purchased as well as to pay the discounted charges for eligible services.
3. I certify that my entity and all schools within my entity are covered by technology plan(s).
4. I certify that the services will be used solely for educational purposes and will not be sold, resold or transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value.

This acknowledgement is for the Program Year 2004 and will stay in effect until relinquished by either part and may affect the Internet Connectivity and Access to our Schools.

Signature: _

Date _

Expurgated

**Overview**

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Letters of Agency

The authorized person on the Form 471 — the person whose signature appears in the Form 471 Item 34 — certifies that he or she is the person authorized to submit and certify to the accuracy of the application. This person must be authorized to represent any and all of the entities for which discounts are sought in the funding requests featured on the application. During its review of the Form 471, the SLD may require copies of the documentation that confirms this person's authorization to represent all of the entities featured on the Form 471.

The evidence that establishes this authorization — and therefore, that establishes the relationship between the authorized person and the entities featured on the form — is generally a Letter of Agency (LOA). A Letter of Agency (LOA) is most commonly signed by consortium members and kept on file by their consortium leader to verify their knowledge of their membership and participation in the consortium. Other vehicles to establish this authorization could be a project agreement, a contract, a letter agreement, or other similar document.

A consultant — or anyone signing as the authorized person who is not a school or library employee — should also have an LOA from the applicant expressly authorizing the consultant to represent the applicant.

Whatever the form of the document establishing the above authorization, it must contain all of the following:

- The name of the person filing the application (the consortium leader or consultant)
- The name of the person authorizing the filing of the application (the entity who will receive discounted services, such as a consortium member)
- The specific timeframe the LOA or authorizing document covers (for example, the E-rate Funding Year 2003)
- The signature, signature date, and title of an official who is an employee of the entity who is authorizing the filing of the application (the entity who will receive discounted services, such as a consortium member)
- The type of services covered by the LOA or authorizing document (such as "Internet services" or "networking equipment").

NOTE: The timeframes of these authorizations cannot be open-ended, such as "until terminated by either party."

**QUICK LINKS**

▸ **Apply Online**

- [Reference Area](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Eligible Services List](#)
- [Changes & Corrections](#)
- [Suspensions & Debarments](#)
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- [Contact Us](#)
- [Whistleblower Hotline - Report Waste, Fraud, & Abuse](#)

SITE HELP

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In certain situations, other documentation may be accepted as proof of authorization. For example, for consortium applications, the consortium lead member must either collect Letters of Agency from each consortium member or be able to provide some other proof that each consortium member knew it was represented on the application. Consortia which have a statutory or regulatory basis and for which participation by schools or libraries is mandatory must be able to provide documentation supporting this certification, including copies of the relevant state statute or regulation.

NOTE that the Letter of Agency must be certified BEFORE the filing of the Form 471.

Follow this link for a sample Letter of Agency that can be used as a reference guide.

→ Content Last Modified: January 10, 2005 ←

Need help? You can contact us toll free at 1-888-203-8100.
Our hours of operation are 8AM to 8PM, Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.
Aware of fraud, waste, and abuse, report it to our Whistleblower Hotline!

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Exhibit E

USAC/SLD Announcement of New Sample Letter of Agency

February 1, 2005

USAC

Universal Service Administrative Company

Schools and Libraries[Home](#) > [Announcement Archives](#) > February 2005 Announcements**About the Schools and Libraries Program**

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- [Overview of the Process](#)
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- [Changes and Corrections](#)
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February 2005 Announcements ←

Please click on the topic below to view the most recent announcements:

- [Holiday Hours Announcement \(February 21\) \(2/15/05\)](#)
- [SLD Provides Clarification for Eligibility of Priority 1 Services \(2/15/05\)](#)
- [Invoice Improvement Update: Billing/Shipping Date Review \(2/14/05\)](#) →
- [SPIN Support for Online Fi](#)
- [SLD Posts Improved Online \(2/7/05\)](#)
- [SLD Issues FY2005 Form 4 \(2/1/05\)](#)
- [Sample Letter of Agency \(2/1/05\)](#)
- [Miscellaneous Updates to \(2/1/05\)](#)
- [What's New Archives.](#)

Schools and Libraries Tools

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- [Calendar/Reminders](#)
- [Required Forms](#)
- [Reference Area](#)
- [Search Tools](#)
- [Program Compliance - Whistleblower Hotline](#)

Holiday Hours Announcement (February 21) (2/15/05)

The Schools and Libraries Client Service Bureau will be closed on Monday, February 21, 2005 in observance of Presidents' Day. The Client Service Bureau will resume normal operations on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. EST.

SLD Provides Clarification for Eligibility of Priority 1 Services (2/15/05)

The SLD has recently seen marketing efforts regarding video and other service Telecommunications and Internet Access categories that misconstrue FCC eligibility requirements.

In the Telecommunications category of service, the FCC's Eligible Services List the listing for "Distance Learning Circuits," that "[t]ransmission services that provide or other] distance learning are eligible for discount." Some may have mistaken that this statement indicates that any Distance Learning service is eligible, when the statement is limited to eligibility for the transmission services that enable distance learning.

Since a full distance learning system may include components beyond the FCC's definition of a telecommunications service, applicants must use care that the costs of ineligible services have been removed when submitting funding requests.

In the Internet Access category of service, the FCC's Eligible Services List indicates that the Internet Access category of service is "limited to the provision of basic conduit services."

Internet." Some may have mistakenly concluded that Internet Access can include that go beyond "basic conduit access" to the Internet, such as a direct exchange of video between applicant sites. Such conclusions are incorrect. In the Internet Access category of service, the SLD will only fund services that are within FCC required "basic conduit access" to the Internet. Funding in this category will not be provided for transport of point-to-point connectivity of data, video, or voice applications that are provided only by eligible telecommunications carriers.

Applicants are cautioned that funding requests for products and services that are not eligible should not be submitted. Any funding requests that include a combination of eligible and ineligible components must be cost-allocated to remove ineligible features.

Invoice Improvement Update: Billing/Shipping Date Review (2/14/05)

SLD has initiated an evaluation of the invoice review process. The goal of this effort is to speed up the processing of invoices without compromising program integrity. As we implement improvements to the invoice review process, notice will be posted on this site with "Invoice Improvement Update" in the title. This is the first of these posts.

In the past, if the date for customer billing or shipping reported on a line in Column 12 on an FCC Form 474 (SPI Form) was

- before the start of the funding year,
- before the service start date reported on the Form 486, or
- after the close of the funding year and the last allowable date to invoice,

the invoice reviewer was required to contact the service provider, work through the discrepancy, and then verify receipt of the necessary documentation that supports compliance with program rules.

Under a recently-enacted change to the review process, if the billing or shipping line item on a SPI Form does not comply with program rules, that line item will be denied.

A line item denied for this reason will be featured on a remittance statement with an appropriate invoice error code. This line item may be resubmitted on a new SPI Form by the correct date.

If you have any questions, please contact the Client Service Bureau.

SPIN Support for Online Filers (2/14/05)

If you are still filing your Form 471, and are filing online, you must have a Service Identification Number (SPIN) for each Funding Request in order to progress through the online form. Filers who do not have a SPIN will receive a message as they complete the form directing them to call the Client Service Bureau (CSB) for assistance.

Please note that SPIN assistance is available for those online filers who have completed the competitive bidding process and selected their service providers, but whose service providers' SPIN assignment has not yet been completed. (Manual filers are able to enter either the service provider name or the SPIN in order to meet Minimum Program Standards.) The Item 21 attachment should clearly indicate the name of the service provider.

standards. The Item 21 attachment should clearly indicate the name of the CSB provider. Call the CSB toll-free at 1-888-203-8100, and representatives will provide assistance. Remember that the CSB hours of service are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SLD Posts Improved Online Form 474 (2/7/05)

SLD has posted an improved online Form 474. The information required on the same as the previous version; however, the look and feel is somewhat different. The improved form has more functionality and is easier to use. Following is a summary of changes:

Block 1, Item 7 – The total invoice amount is now an automatic calculation. It will be automatically updated each time you complete a new line in Block 2.

Save and Exit – You may now save your work and exit the system without submitting Form 474. You may then return at a later time to complete and submit the form. If you submit an incomplete form, you will need the invoice number and security code that was generated for you after you first completed Block 1. Once you have submitted a Form 474, you may make any changes to that form. However, you may still view your Form 474 at any time using the invoice number and security code.

Question/Problem – Click this button to submit a problem or comment about Form 474 to the Client Service Bureau.

Print Preview – When you click the Submit button, the Print Preview function will generate a copy of your Form 474. You may print your form at any time using the Print Preview function.

Unlimited number of line items – You may now submit an unlimited number of line items.

Block 2 Line Item Summary – As you add each line item, the Block 2 total will be automatically updated.

If you have any questions please call the Client Service Bureau.

SLD Issues FY2005 Form 470 RNLs (2/1/05)

The SLD has begun to issue Receipt Notification Letters for Funding Year 2005. These letters will be mailed in daily batches of about 5,000 per day, from January 1 through February 8, 2005.

You may view a [Sample Form 470 Receipt Notification Letter \[PDF\]](#) in the Reference Area of this web site.



Sample Letter of Agency (LOA) Available (2/1/05)



The SLD has posted a sample Letter of Agency (LOA) in the Reference Area of this web site.

A Letter of Agency demonstrates the authorization of the person (on FCC forms designated "Authorized Person") to sign an FCC form on behalf of one or more eligible schools or libraries. Generally, two situations require an LOA or similar authorizing document:

1. Consortium members file a LOA with their consortium leader verifying the

of their membership and participation in the consortium. The consortium keep these letters on file.

2. A consultant — or anyone signing as the authorized person who is not a library employee — should have an LOA from the applicant expressly authorizing the consultant to represent the applicant.

You can view the Sample Letter of Agency through the document [Letters of Agency](#) to the Reference Area of this web site.

Miscellaneous Updates to Web Site (2/1/05)

Following is a list of the documents or pages that have changed on this web site since our last posting on updates:

A new link — [Site Visits](#) — has been created in the right-hand column of the SL Home page. This link will take users to a new external web site that acts as a guide to the site visit process, with a description of the process, documentation needed, and contact information.

The document [Item 21 Attachments for Form 471](#) has been updated to include information that applicants can include in their Item 21 attachments to reduce the chance that Program Integrity Assurance will ask for that information during the application process.

The document [Cost Allocation Guidelines for Products and Services that Contain Ineligible Components](#) has been updated to feature the correct telephone number for questions about cost allocation from service providers and manufacturers.

Content Last Modified: February 15, 2005

Need help? You can contact us toll free at 1-888-203-8100.
Our hours of operation are 8AM to 8PM, Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.
Aware of fraud, waste, and abuse, report it to our [Whistleblower Hotline](#)!

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Exhibit F

USAC/SLD Appeal Guidelines Posted on Web Site



Appeals Guidelines

Appeals may be granted under limited circumstances. This document lists the conditions on which an applicant can appeal a funding determination.

Appeals Procedure

Appeals Guidelines

Proof of Postmark or Delivery

Appeals Guidelines - Schools and Libraries

→ The Schools and Libraries Program of USAC reviews appeals of its decisions in accordance with guidelines established by the Schools and Libraries Programmatic Subcommittee of the USAC board of directors. There are four circumstances when appeals can be granted by USAC, assuming there are no other issues identified during review:

1. **When the appeal makes clear that USAC erred in its initial review.** If USAC makes a mistake (for example, denies funding because the request includes 30% or more of ineligible services), and the appeal points out that mistake (demonstrates that all the services were in fact eligible or that the cost of ineligible services was not included in the original request), USAC will grant the appeal.
2. **When the appeal makes clear that the applicant made a mistake in information provided in or with the application leading to funding denial and that USAC could have identified the mistake from information provided with the application.** For example, If the applicant made a mistake in completing the Form 471 (e.g. put in the wrong contract award date in Block 5) and had provided information to USAC either with the application or during Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review (e.g., provided a copy of the contract to PIA during review with the award date indicated) and if the appeal points out the error (the wrong contract award date) and how USAC could have seen the mistake (from the contract provided during review), USAC will grant the appeal.
3. **When the appeal provides documentation to correct an incorrect USAC assumption made because there was insufficient information in the application file about an issue.** In general, PIA will contact the applicant and ask for all information necessary to make decisions about an application. If that contact does not occur, and funding is denied based on an incorrect assumption, USAC will grant an appeal when the appellant points out the incorrect assumption and provides documentation about the issue that is consistent with information originally provided but also successfully resolves the ambiguity in the original file.
4. **When USAC obtains policy clarification or new policies between the time of funding commitment and the appeal decision.** Over the life of the Schools and Libraries program, there have been policy clarifications from the FCC that have changed the way USAC reviews some funding requests. For example, remote access routers were viewed as ineligible products because they could be used to access the Internet remotely from ineligible sites. In its November 1999 decision on an appeal from the White Sulphur Springs School District, the FCC ruled that such routers can be eligible if they are not used remotely. USAC changed the guidance on its website and granted subsequent appeals that met the conditions for eligibility.

Consistent with these guidelines, USAC will not accept new information on appeal that is inconsistent with information in the file used during review. If, for example, an incorrect contract award date was entered in Block 5 of the Form 471 resulting in a denial for failure to meet competitive bidding requirements and no other information on the contract award date was provided with the application or to PIA during review, USAC will not accept a dated copy of the contract provided with the appeal as the basis for granting the appeal.

In each case above, there is a caveat - USAC will grant the appeal assuming no other issues are identified during review. In order to save administrative time and money, PIA stops its review of a particular funding request once it finds one program rule violation requiring denial. If, on appeal, that basis for funding denial is successfully refuted, USAC must examine all remaining aspects of the request to ensure there is not some other program rule violation that requires denial of the request. If another basis for denial is found, the appeal will be denied for a different reason than that originally provided in the Funding Commitment Decision Letter. If a new denial reason is given, USAC is making a new decision and the appellant would have 60 days from the date of USAC's Decision Letter to file a new appeal - either with USAC or the FCC. For more information on filing appeals, see Appeals Procedure.

In general, USAC reviews appeals on a first-come, first-served basis. Based on an ongoing analysis of the success rate of past appeals, USAC reserves funds to cover those appeals that may be granted.

Last modified on 1/6/2006

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Exhibit G

South Carolina Appropriations Law 2005-2006

**Directing the CIO to Provide Telecommunications Services and Technology
Connectivity for K12 Public Schools Throughout the State**

72.37. (GP: School Technology Initiative) From the funds appropriated/authorized for the K-12 technology initiative, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Budget and Control Board's Office of Information Resources, the State Library and Educational Television Commission shall administer the K-12 technology initiative funds. These funds are intended to provide technology, encourage effective use of technology in K-12 public schools throughout the state, conduct cost/benefit analyses of the various technologies and should, to the maximum extent possible, involve public-private sector collaborative efforts. Funds may also be used to establish pilot projects for new technologies with selected school districts as part of the evaluation process. K-12 technology initiative funds shall be retained and carried forward to be used for the same purpose.

Exhibit H

Letters from the South Carolina State Superintendent of Education



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INEZ MOORE TENENBAUM
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

March 17, 2004

Mr. Kyle Herron
Director of Network Services
Office of the State CIO
4430 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

Dear Mr. Herron:

As a member of the K-12 Technology Initiative Partnership, the South Carolina Department of Education represents the interests of the school districts across the state.

Since 1996, this unique partnership has been charged by the legislature with providing technology infrastructure, encouraging effective use of technology in K-12 public schools throughout the state, conducting cost/benefit analyses of the various technologies and, to the maximum extent possible, involving public-private sector collaborative efforts.

A major thrust of the Partnership has always been to provide telecommunications access to all schools and districts. As such, the State Department of Education provides the CIO's Office within the State Budget and Control Board the authority to provide telecommunication lines and services to all public school districts across the state.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please let me know. Thank you for everything you are doing to help our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Teusink".

Barbara J. Teusink
Director, Office of Technology



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INEZ MOORE TENENBAUM
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

May 18, 2005

Mr. Kyle Herron
Director of Network Services
Division of the State CIO
4430 Broad River Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Dear Mr. Herron:

As a member of the K-12 Technology Initiative Partnership, the South Carolina Department of Education represents the interest of the school districts across the state.

Since 1996, this unique partnership has been charged by the state legislature with providing technology connectivity for K-12 public schools throughout the state and, to the maximum extent possible, involving public/private sector collaborative efforts.

The South Carolina Budget and Control Board's Division of the State CIO has been granted the authority to provide telecommunication and internet access services for all public schools and libraries statewide. Additionally, the Division of the State CIO is delegated the responsibility of receiving and paying all billings for costs associated with providing these services. Funding for this effort has been made available on an annual basis via the annual State Appropriations Act. As the billed entity, the Division of the State CIO is responsible for completing the E-rate filing process for reimbursement of eligible funds.

Schools and libraries are required to participate in the state telecommunication network in order to receive the telecommunications and internet services under this partnership arrangement.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Inez M. Tenenbaum".

Inez M. Tenenbaum
State Superintendent of Education

IMT

Exhibit I

Letter from the South Carolina Director of the State Library



March 15, 2004

Mr. Kyle Herron
Director of Network Services
CIO
4430 Broad River Road
Columbia SC 29210

Dear Kyle:

The CIO consortium is authorized to provide services to all public libraries in South Carolina. The South Carolina State Library works closely with the CIO in this endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

James B. Johnson, Jr.
Director

JBjr:da

Administrative Offices
1430 Senate Street

Information
Resources Center
1500 Senate Street

P.O. Box 11469
Columbia, S.C. 29211

(803) 734-8666 Voice

(803) 734-8676 Fax

www.state.sc.us/scsl

James B. Johnson, Jr.